4B: French-English Conflict in North America

Focus Question:

How did key places in North America change hands between the French and English from 1689 to 1763?

References:

Cranny, Crossroads: A Meeting of Nations pp. 245-248

Web reference: Canadian War Museum: <http://www.warmuseum.ca/cwm/exhibitions/chrono/1000clash_e.shtml>

Read the brief summary of the European wars that carried over to North America in Cranny, read the information on the Canadian War Museum pages entitled “Clash of Cultures” and other relevant sections. Take good notes from Mrs. Cousar’s lecture on the wars in Europe.

from *Canadian History for Dummies* by Will Ferguson:

Confused by all these wars? Here’s why

By this point, you may have gotten the impression that the early years of Canadian history were just one extended slugfest between Britain and France. And you’d be right. For more than 150 years the two sides fought it out, often during times of “official” peace. And if that’s not confusing enough:

* The North American phase of a war had a different name than it did in Europe (for example, in the U.S. the Seven Years’ War is known as “The French and Indian War”).
* The dates were often different as well. For example, the Seven Years’ War actually lasted nine years in North America.

The important thing to know is this: The Seven Years’ War was the final conflict between Britain and France for the control of North America. The conflict began on the frontier and then spread to Europe, where it eventually drew in a complex web of alliances (Britain, Prussia and Hanover on one side, France, Austria, Sweden, Saxony, Russia, and Spain on the other). Winston Churchill called it the first “true” World War, because it was fought on four continents and ranged as far as India. In North America, however, it was strictly a British/French grudge match.

Here is a map of Eastern North America. You will probably want to label it with the place names of some of the important locations mentioned in this section.

As a class, we will complete the following chart:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | In Europe | In North America | Peace Treaty | Results in North America |
| Event | War of the League of Augsburg |  | Peace of Ryswick | Brief end to British-French hostilities |
| Date | 1688-1697 | 1689-1697 | 1697 |  |
| Event | War of Spanish Succession |  | Treaty of Utrecht | French surrendered forts in territories of HBC, French gave up claims to Newfoundland and Acadia, Iroquois declared British subjects, islands in Gulf of St. Lawrence remain French |
| Date | 1702-1713 | 1701-1713 | 1713 |  |
| Event | War of Autstrian Succession |  | Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle | returned Louisbourg to French |
| Date | 1740-1748 | 1744-1748 | `1748 |  |
| Event | Seven Years' War |  | Treaty of Paris | all French land possessions in North America become British (except St. Pierre and Miquelon) |
| Date | 1756-1763 | 1754-1763 | 1763 |  |
|  | Event |  |  |  |
|  | Date | 1755 |  |  |
|  | Event |  |  |  |
|  | Date | June-July 1758 |  |  |
|  | Event |  |  |  |
|  | Date | Aug. Nov. 1758 |  |  |
|  | Event |  |  |  |
|  | Date | Sep 1759 |  |  |
|  | Event |  |  |  |
|  | Date | Sep 1760 |  |  |